

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 01715 01 OF 02 311733Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0083
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01715

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, UK, YO, RO
SUBJECT: CSCE - BRITISH BILATERALS WITH ROMANIANS
AND YUGOSLAVS

1. SUMMARY: IN MID-JANUARY, BRITISH HOSTED BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE MATTERS WITH ROMANIAN AND YUGOSLAV EXPERTS. THE MEETINGS BROUGHT NO SURPRISES, AND THE ROMANIAN AND YUGOSLAV POSITIONS REGARDING THE FORTHCOMING BELGRADE CONFERENCE HAD MANY SIMILARITIES. ALL THREE PARTIES FAVORED A "NON-POLEMICAL" CONFERENCE AND AGREED THAT THE BELGRADE MEETING SHOULD BE BASED ON A MIX OF OPEN PLENARIES AND CLOSED WORKING SESSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. BRITISH-ROMANIAN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON CSCE WERE HELD IN LONDON ON JANUARY 14, WITH THE ROMANIAN SIDE LED BY CSCE EXPERT LIPATTI. (FCO NOTED THAT UK MEETING WAS LIPATTI'S 24TH PRE-BELGRADE BILATERAL.) LIPATTI ARGUED THAT THE BELGRADE APPROACH TO EVALUATION

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 01715 01 OF 02 311733Z

OF HELSINKI IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD BE NEITHER POLEMICAL NOR COMPLACENT AND SAID THAT THE WHOLE CSCE PROCESS NEEDED A FRESH IMPETUS. IN THIS CONTEXT, LIPATTI ARGUED FOR THE CREATION AT BELGRADE OF EXPERTS WORKING GROUPS TO OPERATE BETWEEN THE BELGRADE MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT SIMILAR MEETINGS. ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE BELGRADE MEETING, LIPATTI PROPOSED PUBLIC PLENARY

SESSIONS TO OPEN AND CLOSE THE MEETING, WITH CLOSED SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES DOING THE ACTUAL WORK ON EVALUATION AND NEW PROPOSALS. ALTHOUGH LIPATTI DID NOT INDICATE THE SUBSTANCE OF ANY NEW PROPOSALS WHICH ROMANIA MIGHT OFFER AT BELGRADE, HE SAID THAT BUCHAREST WAS ACTIVELY WORKING ON SPECIFIC IDEAS IN THE MILITARY (BASKET I) AREA. FINALLY, LIPATTI SAID THAT ROMANIA WAS STRONGLY AGAINST ANY PROPOSAL THAT THE EC-9 BE REPRESENTED IN ITS OWN RIGHT AT BELGRADE.

3. IN REPLY, THE FCO (ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY SUTHERLAND) AGREED ON THE DESIRE FOR A NON-POLEMICAL APPROACH TO EVALUATION, BUT SAID THAT HMG DID NOT FAVOR THE CREATION OF A NUMBER OF PERMANENT EXPERTS GROUPS. SUTHERLAND FORESAW A DURATION OF ABOUT THREE MONTHS FOR THE MAIN BELGRADE MEETING (LIPATTI NOTED IN THIS RESPECT THAT THE SOVIETS WERE NOW "MORE REALISTIC" AND NO LONGER EXPECTED THAT THE MEETING WOULD LAST FOR JUST A FEW WEEKS) AND EMPHASIZED THAT IN HMG'S VIEW, THE BELGRADE MEETING WAS ONE STAGE IN A CONTINUING PROCESS. HE OBSERVED THAT THERE WAS CONCERN IN BRITAIN OVER THE SEEMINGLY SLOW RATE OF PROGRESS ON BASKET III IMPLEMENTATION, AND LIPATTI REPLIED THAT THE ROMANIANS WERE DOING THEIR BEST ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND OTHER "HUMAN CONTACTS" MATTERS.

4. AS HAD BEEN AGREED DURING FOREIGN SECRETARY

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PAGE 03 LONDON 01715 01 OF 02 311733Z

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 01715 02 OF 02 311731Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 01715

CROSLAND'S VISIT TO BELGRADE LAST YEAR, YUGOSLAVS (LED BY PESIC) CAME TO LONDON FOR CSCE BILATERALS ON JANUARY 18. PESIC'S GENERAL APPROACH WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF LIPATTI, BUT FCO FOUND THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WERE NOT AS "ORGANIZED" AS THE ROMANIANS ON THE CREATION OF POST-BELGRADE EXPERTS WORKING GROUPS, ALTHOUGH THEY STILL FAVORED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME SUCH MECHANISM. PESIC NOTED THAT THE CSCE PROCESS HAD TO BE DYNAMIZED AND THAT IT WAS THEREFORE INCUMBENT ON THE BELGRADE MEETING TO COME UP WITH A PROGRAM FOR ACTION FOR THE FUTURE. PESIC CONFIRMED THAT YUGOSLAVIA WOULD PROPOSE A "YEAR OF CULTURE" WHICH WOULD BE KEYED TO ALL BASKET III PROVISIONS. INCLUDING FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS. (IN THIS RESPECT, PESIC NOTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAD RECENTLY HAD TROUBLES WITH THE USSR REGARDING THE CONTENT OF A YUGOSLAV ART EXHIBITION WHICH WAS TO BE DISPLAYED IN THE SOVIET UNION.) THE FCO WAS SURPRISED TO NOTE THAT PESIC SAID CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 01715 02 OF 02 311731Z

LITTLE ABOUT THE MEDITERRANEAN DIMENSION OF THE BELGRADE MEETING OTHER THAN TO NOTE THAT THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE SOME INPUT INTO THE BELGRADE PROCESS.

5. LIKE LIPATTI, PESIC FAVORED OPEN PLENARIES AT THE OPENING AND CLOSING OF BELGRADE, WITH CLOSED WORKING COMMISSIONS HANDLING THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK IN BETWEEN. WHEREAS THE ROMANIANS HAD SUGGESTED THREE COMMISSIONS (ONE FOR EACH BASKET) TO TACKLE BOTH IMPLEMENTATION AND NEW PROPOSALS, HOWEVER, THE YUGOSLAVS PROPOSED FOUR COMMISSIONS (ONE FOR IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW OF EACH BASKET AND ONE FOR NEW PROPOSALS). THE BRITISH WANT CLEAR SEPARATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW FROM NEW PROPOSALS PROCESS, BELIEVING THAT THE FIRST SHOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE THE SECOND IS CONSIDERED.

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